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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for preparing optically active (R)-aryloxypropionic acid ester derivatives represented by the following Formula 1 by reacting phenol derivatives represented by the following Formula 2 and (S)-alkyl O-arylsulfonyl lactate represented by the following Formula 3 in the presence of alkali metal carbonate in an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon solvent under the temperature range of 60 to 100°C:

$$A-OH$$
 (2)

 $R^2 \longrightarrow O$ 
 $OR^1$ 
 $OR^1$ 

wherein water formed during the reaction is continuously removed, and wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a C<sub>1-6</sub> -alkyl or benzyl group; R<sup>2</sup> is a C<sub>1-6</sub> -alkyl, phenyl group, or a phenyl group substituted with a C<sub>1-6</sub> -alkyl or a C<sub>1-6</sub> -alkoxy group; A is an aryl group selected from the group consisting of a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a quinoxazolyloxyphenyl group, a benzoxazolyloxyphenyl group, a benzothiazolyloxyphenyl group, a phenyloxyphenyl group, a pyridyloxyphenyl group and a pheyloxynaphthyl group, wherein said aryl group can be substituted with 1-3 functional groups selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro group, a nitrile group, an acetoxy group, a C<sub>1-4</sub> -alkyl group, a C<sub>1-4</sub> -haloalkyl group, a C<sub>1-4</sub> -alkoxy group, and a C<sub>1-4</sub> -haloalkoxy group.

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- 2. In Claim 1, said hydrocarbon solvent is selected from the group consisting of toluene, xylene, cyclopentane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, cycloheptane, n-hexane, and n-heptane.
  - 3. In Claim 1, said solvent is cyclohexane or xylene.

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4. In Claim 1, said method for preparing optically active (R)-aryloxypropionic acid ester derivatives is performed using potassium carbonate as a base in cyclohexane as a solvent at  $80\,^{\circ}$ C.

5. In Claim 1, the water is removed by using a flask equipped with a cooling condenser and Dean-Stock.